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News Release



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645 Parfet St., Suite W-201 · Lakewood, CO 80215

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SMALL GRAIN - SEPTEMBER 2009 COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Growing conditions in Colorado were excellent for small grains in 2009 according to the USDA, NASS Colorado Field Office. Moisture received in the fall of 2008 established very good stands of winter wheat before dormancy. After a dry winter, abundant spring moisture arrived to boost growth in winter wheat and the other spring planted grains. Mild temperatures in late spring and early summer were very favorable for grain production in most growing areas of the State.

The final 2009 **all wheat** production for Colorado, at 100.6 million bushels, was 68.5 percent higher than the production attained the previous year and the largest wheat crop since 1999 in Colorado. **Winter wheat** production was estimated at 98.0 million bushels, 71.9 percent higher than last year's average size crop of 57.0 million bushels. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 2.45 million acres, up from 1.90 million acres harvested last year. The average yield per acre for this year's crop was 40.0 bushels, 10.0 bushels above last year and the second highest on record behind the 43.0 bushels recorded in 1999. The area seeded last fall for this year's crop was estimated at 2.60 million acres. This year's **spring wheat** crop was estimated at 2.61 million bushels, down 3.3 percent from last year's crop. The average yield of 90.0 bushels per acre was 15.0 bushels above last year and tied the record high yield first attained in 2002. The reduction in area harvested for grain, from 36,000 acres last year to 29,000 acres this year, more than offset the increase in yield. Producers seeded 30,000 acres to spring wheat compared with 40,000 last year.

Colorado's **barley** production in 2009 was estimated at 10.40 million bushels, up 20.3 percent from a year ago. The average yield per acre, at 135.0 bushels, was up 15.0 bushels from last year. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 77,000 acres, up from 72,000 acres in 2008. Production of **oats** in 2009 totaled 585,000 bushels, 19.4 percent above last year. Average yield was placed at 65.0 bushels per acre, 5.0 bushels below the previous year. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 9,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from a year ago. Acres seeded to oats totaled 60,000 in 2009, up 15,000 acres from 2008.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

All wheat production totaled 2.22 billion bushels in 2009, up 2 percent from the August forecast but down 11 percent from 2008. Grain area is 50.1 million acres, down 10 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 44.4 bushels per acre, down 0.5 bushel from last year. The levels of production and changes from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.52 billion bushels, down 18 percent; other spring wheat, 588 million bushels, up 7 percent; Durum wheat, 110 million bushels, up 31 percent.

Oats production is estimated at 93.3 million bushels, 1 percent above the August forecast and up 5 percent from last year's record low production. Yield is estimated at a record high 67.6 bushels per acre, up 3.1 bushels from the last forecast and up 3.9 bushels from the previous year. Compared with last year, yields increased for most States in the western third of the country and for several Appalachian States. Harvested area, at 1.38 million acres, is 3 percent below August and 2 percent below last year. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record, continuing a steady downward trend.

Barley production is estimated at 227 million bushels, 10 percent above the August forecast but 5 percent below 2008. Average yield per acre, at 72.8 bushels, is up 7.0 bushels from August and 9.2 bushels from last year and is the highest yield on record since estimates began in 1866. Producers seeded 3.57 million acres for 2009, down 2 percent from June and down 16 percent from last year. This is the second lowest planted acreage on record. Harvested area, at 3.12 million acres, is down slightly from August and 17 percent from 2008.